

Rural Preferential Pre-Vocational Medical Training Program Broken Hill Health Service

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Far West LHD and Broken Hill

Broken Hill, also known as the Silver City, is a great place to live. It has a rich and colourful history and is renowned for its art and creativity, beautiful weather and outback lifestyle.

The city sits in the Barrier ranges and is surrounded by the harsh but fragile beauty of Outback NSW. It is a tourist destination for interstate and international visitors seeking the true gateway to the outback.

You will find Broken Hill particularly friendly and welcoming, with a strong sense of family and community. Broken Hill is a self-reliant, strong regional community with services and facilities to support an active, vibrant resident population. The community values and shares the region's unique natural and built environment with regional, national and international visitors.

The lack of traffic and daily commuting mean you'll find hours in the day you forgot existed, which usually see's people's social lives blossom.

Far West LHD – Career and Lifestyle

The Far West LHD provides a solid start to any medical professional's career. The size and workforce profile ensures that junior doctors, and particularly interns have access to consultant staff that is unattainable in large metropolitan settings. The breadth of work ensures that you'll gain exposure to a diverse range of clinical presentations, with the support to allow you to quickly develop your clinical skills and confidence.

The Far West LHD is committed to developing a career path for rural generalists, as well as providing future Specialists comprehensive grounding to support their future careers. This approach is a collaborative effort involving the LHD, Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation and Western NSW Primary Healthcare Network.

The lack of traffic, great weather and the environment mean achieving a healthy work life balance is easy. The range of social, sporting, recreational and cultural opportunities mean the hours you may have used commuting will be readily absorbed.

For a comprehensive look at living in Country NSW and the Far West see the Far West Career Lifestyle site at www.farwesthealthjobs.com.au. This site covers the many and varied attractions of Broken Hill as well as the communities throughout the Far West.

"Enjoy the Experience"

"Enjoy the Experience" is a film about the Far West Local Health Service and the people that make it unique and special. The film features interviews with health professionals who have come west for a better lifestyle and to give their career a boost. The film is shot unscripted and told by the people that know best, the health professionals themselves. See the film at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/health/fwlhd/work-with-us> under the Why choose Far West LHD Section.

Welcome to the Broken Hill Community

You can also find out about key services like housing, transport, work, schools and recreational opportunities in Broken Hill in the '[Far West Proud Welcome Pack](#)'. We recognise that moving to a new location can be a very challenging time for you and your family. Whether you are planning to move yourself or your whole family to NSW to set up in Broken Hill, this resource can help ease your transition into your new environment.



Broken Hill Health Service

Broken Hill Health Service is a 108-bed rural teaching hospital, providing acute, non-acute and outpatient services to the Broken Hill and surrounding communities. It has general medical, surgical, obstetric, paediatric, psychiatric beds, as well as theatre, palliative care, dialysis, oncology, intensive and coronary care units. This includes a ten bed sub-acute rehabilitation and a mental health recovery unit on site. Support services include radiology and pathology departments, as well as a wide range of allied and primary health services.

Broken Hill Hospital provides a unique range of medical services to the community through the provision of specialist clinics located within the Health Service. The specialist clinics are staffed by a combination of Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs), Staff Specialists, Nursing and Clerical Staff who are employed by the Hospital. The specialist services provided include; General Medicine, General Surgery, Mental Health, Palliative Care, Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Urology, Oncology, Plastic Surgery, E.N.T, Nephrology and Vascular Surgery. Broken Hill has a community based Diabetes Centre, a Child and Family Health Service, Aboriginal Health Service and a number of general practices. Broken Hill is also home to the headquarters of the South Eastern Section of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Facility Overview for Trainees

As a Pre-vocational trainee in Broken Hill, we aim to offer you a taste of rural and general medicine primarily in the hospital setting. The hospital teams are led by specialists and as junior doctors, in the absence of advanced trainees, you will be working closely with them and your patients. This has proven to be a valuable learning experience and provides an abundance of opportunities. Our remote location requires sensible and holistic consideration for our patients, and you will be involved in solving a variety of clinical and non-clinical problems daily.

For prevocational trainees the after-hours commitment is not onerous and includes ward cover on weekdays and weekends as well as inclusion on the surgical assist roster. We want you to experience the 'country life' outside of work commitments.

Opportunities to participate in RFDS clinics and on-call roster are also offered and well enjoyed. We expect our trainees to be involved in formal teaching sessions, audits and clinical reviews however the small cohort of junior and senior doctors makes this a relaxed and enjoyable process. The Far West Regional Training Hub can support trainees with education, networking and career development opportunities. Relocation and accommodation assistance is offered for new staff.

Term rotations

Broken Hill Hospital is one of the smaller rural preferential sites for pre-vocational training in NSW. We offer in PGY1 the three core terms of General Surgery, General Medicine and Emergency allowing full registration in PGY2. For the remaining rotations, trainees are seconded to our network hospitals in Sydney; Concord Repatriation General and Canterbury hospitals. Accommodation and travel on secondment is provided.

In PGY2 we offer additionally Paediatric term, Psychiatry term & Palliative Care term.

Again PGY2 rotate to our networked hospitals for two of their five terms. We also receive pre-vocational trainees from network hospitals on secondment and it is hoped a good rapport is established with these trainees over the two years.

Vocational Training

Presently Broken Hill offers vocational training opportunities in general surgery, ophthalmology, palliative care and is seeking approval for vocational training in other specialities including emergency medicine, psychiatry and paediatrics. These will likely remain secondment positions (for 6 month duration) as part of a greater metropolitan-based vocational training programme with the relevant colleges.

Broken Hill Hospital and the community can support and encourages vocational training with the Colleges of General Practice (RACGP) and Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and has capacity to support Rural GP and *Rural Generalist* training. A specific pathway for General Practice Training is being established which will prepare trainees to competently and confidently practise in rural, remote or/and metropolitan settings, with unrestricted Vocational Registration on completion. Our hospital's close ties and frequent interaction with RFDS, community General Practice, the Local Aboriginal Health service and the Universities will enable us to structure a vocational training programme in rural General Practice to suit your areas of interest and training needs.

Over your two years of pre-vocational training you will have the opportunity to make a genuine contribution to the hospital and greater community. At the conclusion of your training you will have scope to pursue a career in Rural Generalism or General Practice and structure your career in a variety of ways or to pursue an alternative career in medicine with a valuable experience, solid foundation and fond memories.

